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# Wild things abound at Wooten's

While still waters may run deep, the still waters of the Everglades run long and wide, offering one of the most rare environments in the nation.

Students have the opportunity to traverse the waters, gliding across the smooth surface on airboats or water buggies.

Since 1953, the Wooten's team in Ochopee, Florida, has shared the wonders of this part of the world with guests. In fact, most of the people who work here are fourth or fifth generation, and understand the unique environment and its rare beauty.

Wooten's offers visitors the chance to get up close and personal with the Everglades. Guests enjoy tours sprawling over 250 acres of private land. The view is expansive, as Wooten's is snuggled up next to the Big Cypress National Preserve.

Plan on at least two hours to fully experience the destination. Visitors are taken out on a narrated tour via airboat or swamp buggy. Then it's time for the sanctuary and the gator show,

which starts on the hour, every hour while Wooten's is open.

There are 100 alligators on-site, as well as crocodiles. The animal sanctuary is home to a host of big cats and other animals.

A high note for many guests is actually holding a young alligator, 1 or 2 feet long and banded. There's even a chance

to take a photo with their new friend — and at no extra charge.

“People are drawn, I think, to the beauty of the Everglades, the mangroves and the grass-land area,” said

Mike Thrasher, who wears many hats, including group tour director. “Here, you're away from all of the hustle and bustle of the city.”

Reservations for tours are preferred a few weeks in advance, though accommodations can be made with just a day notice. Group rates are available and free parking is provided. 🚗

**Wooten's**  
**239-208-4180**  
[wootenseverglades.com](http://wootenseverglades.com)



Airboat tour, Wooten's, Ochopee, Fla.

PHOTO: WOOTEN'S



Holding an alligator, Wooten's, Ochopee, Fla.

PHOTO: WOOTEN'S